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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

25X1A

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 23 Nov. 1951

SUBJECT Activities of Professor Kurt Poppe of the  
Microbiological Institute, Rostock

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PLACE  
ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF  
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. During a conversation in his institute Professor Kurt Poppe stated that, during World War II, "apart from other work which need not be discussed here", he studied Russian bacteriological material. He was particularly interested in the so-called "Leitbakterien" (lead bacteria?) which indicate the presence of oil in lower strata. He claims that the Russians were well advanced in this field. Later during the war, he undertook some actual research along these lines in Rumania. His research assistant Fräulein Drehfahl stated that tests with oil soil were undertaken at the Institute during the war.
2. The Institute for Microbiology in Rostock has not been assigned any official research work. The money, it is said, is needed for more important tasks. Poppe himself is no longer in favor with the DDR regime, because he did not wish to resume his work on oil grounds, and also because he did not wish to accept any official research work. He felt that it was dangerous to be under obligation, as long as the general trend might become unpleasant.
3. Another assistant, Fräulein Strutz, has 70 cultures of actinomyceten and would like to work with them.
4. The Institute, does bacteriological analyses for the children's hospital and also works with Bang's disease.
5. Dr. Niepage, another assistant of Poppe, hopes that at least one official research task will be assigned the institute, and that Poppe himself has asked to work on cattle leukosis.
6. Professor Poppe keeps the following animals:
  - a. Six guinea pigs identified by numbers which are inoculated by Poppe himself at intervals.
  - b. One hare suspected of being afflicted with rabies.
  - c. Several light brown mice (aguti) (sic)\* which are apparently animals of the same type as those kept by Professor Dr. Hans Knecht in Jena. They are reported to develop tumors on the underbelly. They are crossed with white mice(sic).

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d. Three chickens which do not seem to be used.

7. Experiments are being made with cattle suffering from lomatosis (Hodgkin's disease). Dr. Niepage and Poppe hope to find a new method of analysis by luminescence.

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[REDACTED] If these are agents, they are not mice, but larger rodents described in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary as follows: A rodent of the cavy, or guinea-pig family, about the size of a rabbit, common in tropical America.

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